

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new Claims 33, 34 and 35 and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A publication service interface between a service provider application and a content providing application in a network printing system, comprising:

functionality for configuring the interface for the service provider to interface with the content providing application on a first level, wherein the first level comprises service provider administration properties, wherein the service provider administration properties comprises a configuration operation for a parameter to provide a service provided by the service provider;

functionality for configuring the interface for a multi-service operator to interface with the content providing application on a second level, wherein the second level comprises multi-service level administration properties that comprise a portion of the service provider administration properties which excludes the configuration operation for the parameter to provide the service provided by the service provider application; and

functionality for configuring the interface for an end user to interface with the content providing application on a third level, wherein the third level comprises end user level administration properties that comprise a portion of the multi-service provider administration properties.

2. (Currently Amended) An interface according to Claim 1, wherein the service provider administration properties further comprise system maintenance, service maintenance and subscriber maintenance operations.

3. (Original) An interface according to Claim 2, wherein the multi-service provider administration properties comprise the service provider administration properties except system maintenance operations and service maintenance operations specifically relating to service provider level operations.

4. (Original) An interface according to Claim 3, wherein the end user administration properties comprise the subscriber maintenance operations.

5. (Original) An interface according to Claim 2, wherein the system maintenance operations comprise viewing system status, viewing operators, adding and editing operators, and deleting operators, the service maintenance operations comprise viewing services, suspending services, resuming services and adding/removing services, and the subscriber maintenance properties comprise viewing subscribers, adding and editing subscribers and deleting subscribers.

6. (Currently Amended) An interface according to Claim 5, wherein the multi-service administration properties comprise each of the system maintenance properties except some adding and editing operators and some deleting operators

operations, each of the service maintenance operations except adding and removing services, and each of the subscriber maintenance operations.

7. (Currently Amended) An interface according to Claim 5, wherein the end user administration properties comprise ~~on~~ the subscriber maintenance properties.

8. (Original) An interface according to Claim 1 further comprising functionality for obtaining content information from the content providing application at a scheduled delivery time, and for managing delivery of the content information to the end user.

9. (Original) An interface according to Claim 1, wherein the interface can be configured differently for each of a plurality of multi-service operators to provide each multi-service operator with a different interface at the second level to the content providing application.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of managing content information between a service providing application and a content providing application, comprising the steps of:

the service providing application interfacing with the content providing application on a first level to perform service provider operator level administration operations, wherein the service provider operator level administration operations comprises

a configuration operation for a parameter to provide a service provided by the service providing application;

a multi-service provider interfacing with the content providing application on a second level to perform multi-service operator level administration operations, the multi-service operator level operations being less than all of the service provider operator level administration operations and excluding the configuration operation for the parameter to provide the service provided by the service provider application; and

an end user interfacing with the content providing application on a third level to perform end user operator level administration operations, the end user operator level administration operations being less than all of the multi-service operator level operations.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the service provider operator level administration properties further comprise system maintenance, service maintenance and subscriber maintenance operations.

12. (Original) A method according to Claim 11, wherein the multi-service operator level administration properties comprise the service provider administration properties except system maintenance operations and service maintenance operations specifically relating to service provider operator level operations.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the end user operator level administration properties comprise the subscriber maintenance operations.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of managing content information in a network printing system, comprising the steps of:

a printing service provider, which maintains a printing service application, configuring an interface between the printing service application and a content providing application, which is maintained by a content provider, so that the printing service application can perform service provider administration operations with the content providing application on a first level, wherein the first level comprises administration operations comprising a configuration operation for a parameter to provide a service by the printing service provider;

a multi-service operator, which provides subscriptions for a printing service provided by the printing service provider to end users of the multi-service operator, configuring the interface to interface between the multi-service operator and the content providing application so that the multi-service operator can perform administration operations on the content providing application on a second level, wherein the second level comprises a portion of the service provider administration operations excluding a configuration operation for a parameter to provide a service by the service provider; and

an end user, which subscribes to the printing service provided by the multi-service operator, configuring the interface between the end user and the content providing application for the end user to perform administration operations on the content providing application on a third level.

15. (Currently Amended) A network printing system, comprising:

a printing service provider that provides a printing service application, the printing service application including an interface with a content providing application of a content provider that provides content information to be included in a publication generated by the printing service application, the interface being configured for the printing service provider to perform service provider administration operations on the content providing application on a first level, wherein the first level comprises administration operations comprising a configuration operation for a parameter to provide a service by the printing service provider;

a multi-service operator that provides subscriptions to the printing service to end users, the interface being configured for the multi-service operator to perform administration operations on the content providing application on a second level, wherein the second level comprises a portion of the service provider administration operations excluding a configuration operation for a parameter to provide a service by the service provider; and

an end user that subscribes to the printing service with the multi-service operator, the interface being configured for the end user to perform administration operations on the content providing application on a third level.

16. (Currently Amended) A broadband printing system in which content information maintained by a content provider is printed on an end user's printer based on subscription information provided by the end user to a broadband printing service provider, comprising:

plural content providers that each maintain a content providing application of content information for printing on the end user's printer;

a broadband printing service provider that operates a broadband printing service that obtains content information from at least one of the plural content providers and processes the obtained content information to be printed on the end users printer;

plural multi-service operators that each receive subscription requests for the broadband printing service from plural end users, wherein each multi-service operator can determine which of the plural content providers the end user can request a subscription to; and

plural end users that subscribe with at least one of the plural multi-service operators to receive content information and have it printed on the end user's printer,

wherein, an interface between the broadband printing service and the content providing application provides for the broadband printing service to perform service provider operations with the content providing application on a first level, wherein the first level comprises administration operations comprising a configuration operation for a parameter to provide a service by the printing service provider, for each of the plural multi-service operators to perform operations with the content providing application on a second level lower than the first level, wherein the second level comprises a portion of the service provider administration operations excluding a configuration operation for a parameter to provide a service by the service provider, and for each of the end user's to perform operations with the content providing application on a third level lower than the second level.

17. (Previously Presented) An interface according to Claim 1, wherein the interface for the service provider application on the first level is controlled by operating a configuration dialog that enables configuration of the service provider administration properties.

18. (Previously Presented) An interface according to Claim 1, wherein the interface for the service provider application on the second level is controlled by operating a configuration dialog that enables configuration of the multi-service level administration properties that comprise a portion of the service provider administration properties.

19. (Previously Presented) An interface according to Claim 1, wherein the interface for the service provider application on the third level is controlled by operating a configuration dialog that enables configuration of the end user level administration properties that comprise a portion of the multi-service provider administration properties.

20. (Previously Presented) An interface according to Claim 1, further comprising:

functionality for obtaining identification information corresponding to a user; and

functionality for determining a level of the interface in accordance with the obtained identification information.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the interface on the first level is controlled by operating a configuration dialog that enables configuration of the service provider operator level administration operations.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the interface on the second level is controlled by operating a configuration dialog that enables configuration of the multi-service operator level administration operations that are less than all of the service provider operator level administration operations.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the interface on the third level is controlled by operating a configuration dialog that enables configuration of the end user operator level administration operations that are less than all of the multi-service provider operator level administration operations.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 10, further comprising:

obtaining identification information corresponding to a user; and
determining a level of the interface in accordance with the obtained identification information.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the printing service provider configures the interface by operating a configuration dialog that enables configuration of the administration operations on the first level.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the multi-service operator configures the interface by operating a configuration dialog that enables configuration of the administration operations on the second level.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the end user configures the interface by operating a configuration dialog that enables configuration of the administration operations on the third level.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

prior to any one of the printing service provider, the multi-service operator and the end user configuring the interface, obtaining identification information corresponding to the user; and

determining a level of the interface in accordance with the obtained identification information.

29. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 15, wherein the interface for the printing service application is configured on the first level by operating a configuration dialog that enables configuration of the service provider administration operations.

30. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 15, wherein the interface for the service provider application is configured on the second level by operating

a configuration dialog that enables configuration of the multi-service operator administration operations.

31. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 15, wherein the interface for the service provider application is configured on the third level by operating a configuration dialog that enables configuration of the end user level administration operations.

32. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 15, wherein, prior to the interface being configured by any one of the printing service provider, the multi-service operator and the end user, the printing service application obtaining identification information corresponding to the user, and determining a level of the interface in accordance with the obtained identification information.

33. (New) A service managing device, comprising:

first determining means for determining whether a user who accesses the service managing device has a first authority to initially set a service providing content;

executing means for executing the initial setting of the service content when the first determining means determines that the user has the authority to initially set the service content; and

second determining means for determining whether the user has a second authority to execute a control process of the service excluding the authority to initially set the service content,

wherein the executing means executes the service control process when the second determining means that the user has the second authority.

34. (New) A service managing device according to Claim 33, wherein the initial setting of the service content is a setting directed to information for connection to a library where the service is used.

35. (New) A service managing device according to Claim 33, wherein the service control includes at least one of starting, terminating, aborting and resuming of the service.